

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

February 24, 2015

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Norwine.

MINUTES: In regards to discussion from the January meeting, Mr. Price asked if any of the LabOne locations were in the Rensselaer area? Auditor Grow replied that there are currently no locations in Rensselaer. Mr. Price asked if this was something that was being worked on? Auditor Grow replied that the Commissioners have asked Jack Fagens, Financial Arts, Inc., to look into that.

Also within the January minutes under "Newspaper Article / Metal Theft", Mr. Price wanted to clarify that the present law is the one that doesn't have the proper penalties. The bill that Representative Gutwein is working on would have significant penalties for violating the law.

Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 20, 2015 with the clarifications. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / ELECTED OFFICIAL TRAINING FUND: Advertised in the Elected Official Training Fund, Other Services & Charges, Continued Education was \$1,200.00 each for the Recorder, Auditor, Treasurer, Clerk and Surveyor for a total request of \$6,000.00. This money is collected from a portion of recording fees and is to be used for Education and Training as set by Indiana statute 36-2-7-19. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-02A** as advertised. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Planning & Development Budget, Personal Services, Inspector was \$1,000.00. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-02B** as advertised. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY CREDIT FUND: Advertised in the County CREDIT Fund, Technology, Other Services & Charges, Computer Lease (Extension) was \$1,675.00. Bryan Overstreet, Extension Educator, explained that the reason for the request is due to a human error at the time of the original budget as well as a bill that arrived too late to be paid from the 2014 budget. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-02C** as advertised. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS / DONATIONS ANIMAL SHELTER FUND: Advertised in the Donations Animal Shelter Fund, Capital Outlays, Equipment was \$1,496.00. Kristen Bahleda, Animal Control Director, stated that \$495.65 is needed to make repairs to the outside kennel. Also requested was \$1,000.00 to begin a microchipping program at the shelter. All pets that are adopted from the shelter will be microchipped. The Animal Control Board and the Commissioners have approved the expenditures. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-02D** as advertised. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS / CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Budget, Personal Services, Court Reporter was \$3,500.00. Judge John Potter has a Court Reporter that will be retiring in April after 32 years and he would like for the new hire to have a few months of training under her experience. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-02E** as advertised. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION / INTER-FUND LOAN: Due to insufficient funds in the Ambulance Fund aka Emergency Medical Services Fund, an inter-fund loan is needed to pay the contractual amounts to Jasper County's four ambulance providers. There are presently available funds within Fund 1186 to permit a loan of \$350,000.00 to Fund 1151. Pursuant to the provision of IC 36-1-8-4, the loan shall be repaid by the Ambulance Fund no later than December 31, 2015. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Resolution No. 02-24-2015(RES)**. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT / SALARY ORDINANCE: Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 02-24-2015A** making the following amendment to the 2015 Salary Ordinance. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Part-Time Weights and Measures
Maximum Rate Per Hour \$16.00

Part-Time Highway Janitor
Maximum Rate Per Hour \$13.94

AMENDMENT / SALARY ORDINANCE: Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 02-24-2014B** making the following amendment to the 2015 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

County General – Circuit Court
Maximum Rate Per Hour for Probation Secretary (Hitchcock) \$16.78
Yearly Salary for Probation Secretary (Hitchcock) \$34,902.00

YEAR-END JAIL REPORT / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner distributed the annual year-end jail report. There were just over 1100 book-ins at the Jasper County Jail. The daily allowable meal rate is \$1.83 per meal per inmate and we came in at just over \$1.54 for the year. There were no escapes and no deaths in custody. Mr. Fritts asked how the book-ins compare to 2013? Sheriff Risner replied that the number is actually down. Mr. Bontreger asked what the timeline was as far as the upgrading of the E911 system? Sheriff Risner replied that we hope that the new systems will be coming in sometime in late April or early May.

2014 TOURISM REPORTS: Kevin Kelly, Jasper County Economic Development Director, and Katie Holderby, South Shore Convention and Visitor's Bureau, distributed and reviewed the 2014 Tourism Report and the 2014 Partnership Recap compiled by the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority. Also present was Jamie Miller, President of the Jasper County Tourism Commission. The Innkeeper's Tax Revenue for 2014 generated \$137,457.26.

PART-TIME HELP / SURVEYOR: Vince Urbano, Surveyor, was present to discuss his part-time money that was reduced at budget time. It is very crucial that we have this in place for me to achieve the goals that I've got set for us this year. Mr. Bontreger explained that the County is feeling a lot of downward pressure from the powers that be at the DLGF. In other words, we submitted our budget and it got squeezed considerably so we really need to work on living within our means this year.

COMMISSIONERS' UPDATE: Kendell Culp, Commissioner, reported that we are close to finalizing our agreement with the airport as well as continuing to work with NIPSCO on the vacation of CR 250E. As far as legislation, this was the last day for the House and the Senate to hear their bills. Mr. Culp stated that he spoke with Senator Charbonneau this morning in regards to the annexation bill which is important to all counties. The current annexation law in Indiana is very favorable to municipalities and not favorable to counties so we're trying to correct that. The Sheriff and I spent one morning in Indianapolis talking to the House Ways and Means Committee about E911 funding. In response to a question from Mr. Norwine, Mr. Culp replied that NIPSCO does import fly ash into our area. Mr. Norwine asked if they will be paying a tipping fee? Mr. Culp replied that we are working on that; however, I can't say that we have been very successful.

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JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT / UPDATE: Brad Cozza, Airport Manager, distributed and reviewed information from 2014. The sale of aviation gasoline is up from 2013; however, the sale of jet fuel is down. Mr. Cozza explained that the low price of corn drove down the demand for agricultural spraying.

CITIZEN CONCERN / MATHIS: Tom Mathis, concerned citizen, presented a copy to the Auditor of the 11-page handout that was distributed to the Council Members at their January 20, 2015 meeting. A handout of information gathered from the Hoosier Environmental Council was distributed and reviewed by Mr. Mathis.

There being no further business, Mr. Andree made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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